

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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Rhododendron Society

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February 2004

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

Apr. 30–May 2, 2004

Holiday Inn Express, Kilmarnock, VA

October 2004

Charlottesville, VA

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

U VA Science & Engineering Libraries

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm>

SPRING MEETING 2004 IN KILMARNOCK

by Sandra McDonald

David and Mary Lloyd Lay and the committee have been working hard on putting together our MAC Spring Meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Kilmarnock. The fun will begin on Friday evening, April 30th with a talk and slide presentation by Don Hyatt. The program will be held in Grace Church and will be open to the public with the hope that Don's energetic and interesting talk will entice some of the locals to join MAC. Motel reservations will need to be made very early for this meeting so don't procrastinate once you receive your meeting mailing.



Our truss show will be held at the motel.

Saturday will feature three garden tours. We will visit the Olsen Garden of Anne and John Olsen in Wicomico Church. This is a large garden surrounded by natural areas and water views. Grasses and shrub borders unite the various outdoor rooms around the contemporary-style house and pool. A wide variety of plant materials, including many natives, create a landscape with year-long interest.

The second garden is 'Hollymere', the garden of Maurice and Anne Dickerson. They have a charming woodland garden using azaleas, hostas and other shade loving plants. A peaceful Zen rock grouping is featured on the lawn. A small bridge over a lily and fish pond leads to the entrance of the house while paths to the creekside bring visitors past a sparkling stream and waterfalls to open views of Taylor's Creek. Hurricane Isabel caused major damage and plant loss along the drive and restoration has begun.

The third garden we will visit is the Lay's lovely garden, 'Woodland', which has been in development over the last 20 years. We will have lunch at the Lay's.

David is a collector of small shrubs and trees and Mary Lloyd has focused on perennials. They have a large collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and Japanese maples as well as an array of perennials. Though Hurricane Isabel downed several large oaks, the 2000-foot deer fence was untouched. The Lay's beautiful garden was featured on public television this past year.

Bill Bedwell will be telling us about the ARS "Plant of the Year" program at this meeting, so be thinking about which plants you consider your best evergreen azalea, deciduous azalea, elepidote rhododendron and lepidote rhododendron since these are the four categories that are included in the program.

Saturday evening we will meet at the lovely facilities of Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury for our dinner buffet and program. Our plant auction and social hour will be held at this facility. Native azalea expert Clarence Towe will be our featured speaker. Clarence has been writing a book about the native azaleas. It is scheduled to be released by the Timber Press in fall 2004.

Open gardens are planned for Sunday.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

As I sit writing this late in January we have 5 to 6 inches of snow on the ground covered in a thin layer of ice. The snow started Sunday and now it is 6 a.m. on Wednesday, but as I look up at the still nighttime sky I see stars so maybe the sun will follow and some melting will occur. If you guessed I have 'cabin fever' you're right.

The first weekend in January daffodils (*Rijnveld's Early Sensation*) and snowdrops were in bloom, the temperature reached 72 degrees F. The second weekend in January we had a low of 6 degrees F. On the brighter side it is almost February and spring can't be too far behind.

We finally had the big white oak (80' to 100' tall) that had gone over in the hurricane and lodged in another group of trees removed. We had been resigned to having it dropped right in the middle of the garden but our tree man insisted he could get it down and out without damaging anything in the garden. Sceptic that I am, my thought was seeing is believing. He arrived early one morning with two assistants and parked a heavy piece of equipment (a back hoe or some such thing) on a street several hundred feet from the back of our property. He then tied a 'bull' rope to the back hoe, snaked it through the woods and tied it to the tree. He climbed the tree and trimmed all the branches that were lodged in the other trees lowering each on ropes to the men on the ground. Once it was free one of the men went up to the back hoe and slowly moved back pulling the tree more upright. Our man in the tree then cut the tree in sections again lowering each one by rope to the man below on the path. Small branches were shredded and large sections loaded into his truck and carted away. All that remains is sawdust on the paths. This operation took a good part of a day but he was right, not one plant was damaged or destroyed! What an amazing feat to watch.



It's just about daybreak and I can see the witch hazel *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnolds Promise' from my window. It looks like the buds are swelling. Soon the winter jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, that covers the ground under the witch hazel will also bloom. I'm ready for spring.

NON-RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS by Jane McKay

Here is the list of members who according to my records did not renew or have not told me they are not going to renew: Jake Baer, Harold Berg, R & K Bull, Doug Chestnut, Frank Digney, Gary Glontz,

Susan Harmon, John Heinze, Maud Henne, Parker Little, V & R Patterson, David Peebles, Norris Post, Bonnie Pratt, James Randall, V&I Rasper, W Sneed, Jerome Ward, and Ennion Williams. If your name is on this list, and you want to renew, contact Jane McKay at the address listed on the back of this newsletter for information. Journal Jeopardy applies to these memberships if they wish a January Journal.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Ron Brohawn, Webster, FL 33597
Maureen Griffin, Williamsburg, VA 23185
Dr. Hartwig Schepker, Bremen, D-28359, Germany

DEATH

Long-time MAC member Robert L. Kellogg died on January 3, 2004. Dr. Kellogg was a former English professor and dean of the University of Virginia's College of Arts and Sciences. He had been a professor at UVA for 42 years. He retired from teaching in 1999.

He received his master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard University and his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland.

He was fascinated with Iceland, became fluent in the language, bought a house there, researched Icelandic literature and spent many summers in Iceland.

Dr. Kellogg was devoted to gardening, taking after his father, a soil scientist. He was a member of MAC for many years and a good grower of azaleas.

MAC MAYMONT DISPLAY by Bill Bedwell

MAC members set up the Chapter's first landscape display of azaleas and rhododendrons for the Maymont Flower Show in Richmond February 18 through 22. Jeanne Hammer, Sharon Collins, and Theresa Brents designed the exhibit that featured a curving stone path and Adirondack chair with a complete range of lepidote and elepidote rhododendrons and evergreen and deciduous azaleas. They arranged for forcing of some azaleas and bulbs for color, and selected other rhododendron and azalea varieties that still had their colorful winter foliage. John Bushman donated some snowdrops in bloom. Doug Jolley furnished the deciduous azaleas. Paul McWhinney and Bill Bedwell helped them set up the display on Saturday, February 14, the first

work day for exhibitors, with final additions scheduled for Wednesday morning, February 18, just before the show opens for its run through February



Sharon Collins, Theresa Brents, and Jeanne Hammer working to set up the MAC booth at Maymont Show. Photo by Bill Bedwell.

22. MAC has participated in the Maymont Flower Show several times in the past, but this is the first actual landscape exhibit. In the next issue of this newsletter, there will be a follow-up article about the show and the members who took turns staying with the exhibit, talking to visitors and answering questions, in hopes that some may join the Chapter.

January Haiku

Leaves curled 'gainst the cold
the forlorn rhododendrons ...
Bleak the garden mien

Yellow-rumped warbler
sitting on my cold deck rail...
Coming? or going?

The azaleas' buds
Portend a glorious springtime...
The doe thinks dinner.

Glenn Kauffman 01/04

ARS BOARD PUTS ENDOWMENT ON FIRM FOOTING by Jeanne Hammer

I want to draw your attention to Bill Mangels' report on the ARS endowment in the Winter 2004 issue of the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* (see page 31). At the August 2003 MAC board meeting a resolution was passed requesting the ARS board to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility and segregate gifts made to the endowment to support educational publications from later gifts made for unrestricted purposes. It is gratifying that the ARS board and Executive Director Dee Daneri took the MAC resolution to heart and promptly researched the history of the Endowment, sought out fund accounting expertise for advice, and took action to create three funds within the Endowment representing restricted gifts for educational publications, unrestricted gifts, and board designated funds.

In the future, if you wish to make a gift to the Endowment, please be sure to indicate if you want your gift to the publications fund within the Endowment or for unrestricted purposes.

HAWAII CHAPTER TO HOLD REGIONAL MEETING

The Hawaii Chapter-American Rhododendron Society is hosting the Western Regional Conference and Board Meeting next Sept. 2004. The tours being planned will include a tour to the Volcano National Park, a nighttime lava walk and member's gardens tours.

Hotel rooms have been blocked out at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel for Sept. 23rd to Sept. 26th, 2004. Besides the activities being planned for the conference a week's cruise is also being planned as a post-conference event. Our theme is "E Komo Mai", come on over.

Contact president Sherla Bertelmann at vireya@greensand.net or registrar Veryl Ann Grace, at verylann@mfire.com for more information or to reserve your spot. There will be an insert in the Summer *ARS Journal* as well.

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